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Medals and Medallions

Mount Rushmore Medallion

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection







THE MOUNT RUSHMORE COIN-MEDAL Sculptured by Edward R. Grove

57th COMMEMORATIVE PRIVATELY STRUCK BY THE NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE SOCIETY

South Dakota's state historian, Doane Robinson, first conceived the idea of carving a gigantic sculpture in the Black Hills of that state in 1923. Two years later, Robinson finally found a sculptor competent enough to carve a mountain. He was Gutzon Borglum, an artist who was then at work sculpturing a Confederate Memorial on Stone Mountain in Georgia—developing engineering methods that he later put to good use at Mount Rushmore.

Robinson's original concept for the memorial involved carving the figures of local heroes like Jim Bridger, John Colter and Kit Carson into the unusual granite formations known as the Needles. But Borglum thought that the project should be of national rather than regional significance, and that a more suitable place than the Needles should be found. He preferred

a mountain large enough to encompass a sculptural unity. After much searching, Borglum selected the mountain named after Charles E. Rushmore, a New York lawyer. He chose this mountain because its smoothgrained granite surface dominated the surrounding terrain and faced the sun most of the day.

Construction began on August 10, 1927, following a formal program in which President Calvin Coolidge officially dedicated the National Memorial. Because of inclement weather and lack of funds, 14 years were required to complete the sculpture as it now stands. The actual time spent in construction of the Memorial was 6½ years. In the early construction years, private donations supported the work. But later, as more money was required, the federal government assumed

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National Comme ation at

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the financial responsibility for the Memorial. By the time the project ended, federal appropriations accounted for over 80 percent of the approximately \$1,000,000 spent on the sculpture. Borglum died in March of 1941, before he could complete the Memorial. All work on Mount Rushmore ceased later that same year, and no additional carving has been done on the mountain since.

The sculptor felt that Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt best represented the growth of the American ideal.

Washington represented the Revolution and its successful conclusion. He was a leader, in both civilian and military life.

Jefferson was another logical choice since he had been the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, penned the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, founded the University of Virginia, and was responsible for the Louisiana Purchase.

Abraham Lincoln, said the sculptor, should be revered for preserving the Union threatened by Civil War and for his Emancipation Proclamation, which affirmed the credo that freedom is a right, regardless of race or color.

Borglum's final choice, Theodore Roosevelt, was selected as a leader who would represent both the vigorous Twentieth Century and the growth of respect for America as a world power.

The first step in the construc-

tion of the Memorial required blasting away the surface rock to reach solid granite. This was accomplished by the powdermen, using measured amounts of dynamite to remove the unwanted rock.

Once solid granite was reached, carvers — suspended over the side of the mountain in harnesses or bosun chairs — used jackhammers to give general shape to the faces. Using a small air hammer in a process known as "bumping," the workmen then brought the sculpture to its finished appearance. Over 400,000 tons of rock were removed from the mountain, and most of it still lies where it fell, below the faces.

The size of the facial features is astounding. The heads each measure 60 feet from the chin to the top of the head; each nose is 20 feet long; each mouth is 18 feet wide, and the eyes measure 11 feet across. The sculpture is carved to the scale of men 465 feet tall.

But the carving was not intended to produce a Memorial that would be known only for its gigantic proportions. Borglum once said, "A monument's dimensions should be determined by the importance to civilization of the events commemorated." Mount Rushmore's importance as a Memorial is as lofty in meaning as it is in size. The sculpture is not merely a memorial to the four presidents who appear here, but a symbol of the establishment and the growth of our United States,

INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC AGENCY

127 EAST 59TH STREET NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

NEIL S. COOPER

MT. RUSHMORE NATIONAL MONUMENT
AND THE WHITE HOUSE HONORED
ON NEW 2 1/2" COMMEMORATIVE DESK MEDALLION





Mt. Rushmore, a mountain sculpture carved directly out of the stone of the Black Hills in South Dakota, is perhaps the most awe inspiring monument in the world. The famous gigantic granite images of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, viewed yearly by tens of thousands of Americans and foreign visitors, have become symbols of America's greatness and growth as a democratic government. The monument, designed and sculptured by the visionary Gutzon Borglum, celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 1967 and was honored in 1952, its 25th Anniversary, by a 3¢ Commemorative stamp, now out of print. Bills currently before the Senate and House of Representatives propose that the Monument be incorporated in the design of the U.S. one dollar notes.

The White House, the first public building to be erected in Federal City as Washington himself called the site chosen to replace Philadelphia as the nation's capital, celebrated its 175th Anniversary in 1967. The cornerstone of the "President's Palace" was laid October 13, 1792, when George Washington had been President for three years and its first actual inhabitants were John and Abigail Adams.

A large 2 1/2" Desk Medallion with easel stand (pictured above in actual size) has been struck exclusively for the International Numismatic Agency by the Medallic Art Company, official mint for the Presidential Inaugural Medals. Deeply sculptured in high-relief by Speri Anargyros, Fellow of the National Sculpture Society, the Medallions are immediately available in limited editions in Bronze and Nickel Silver.

Bronze with Desk Easel...price \$12.95 each plus 75¢ postage.
Nickel Silver with Desk Easel...price \$14.95 each plus 75¢ postage.
All medals are shipped special delivery, insured. Please include N.Y.C.
and State taxes where applicable.



INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC AGENCY

127 EAST 59TH STREET NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

NEIL S. COOPER





Pictured above are the sculptor's models of a new Double Commemorative Medallion just published by the International Numismatic Agency in tribute to the Office of the President in the national history of the United States. Two important national edifices are being jointly honored, Mt. Rushmore National Monument and the White House.

A First Edition Collectors Set has been struck in .999 Fine Silver High Relief Proof Finish in a limited edition of 1000 hallmarked, serially numbered specimens. In order to assure both high relief and proof finish, each medal has been struck a minimum of four blows from two different sets of hubs and dies.

The First Edition Collectors Sets are 41.3 mm in diameter and are considerably larger, heavier and thicker than the U.S. Silver Dollar. They are being fabricated at Medallic Art Co. of N.Y.C. and sculptured by Spero Anargyros creator of the Alaska Centennial Medal and Hawaii Statehood Medal.

The medals are housed in beautiful blue collectors cases and come with a copy of "Foreword" by Gutzon Borglum, visionary designer of Mt. Rushmore, the worlds largest mountain sculpture.

Price.....\$30.00 each plus \$.75 each set for postage and insurance.



Mount Rushmore National Monument

- A FOUR MEDAL SET -

As publishers and distributors of medallic art, we are proud to offer to our clientele



THE NATIVITY



THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT





JESUS IN THE TEMPLE



THE HOLY FAMILY

THE LAST SUPPER



AGONY IN THE GARDEN



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a four medal set depicting The Life of Christ which we believe is a superior example of artistic craftsmanship, beauty, and excellence. Deeply sculptured in high relief, these

full two inch (2") heavy medallions portray in exciting dramatic perspective the major episodes and historic highlights in The Life of Christ. They are sculptured by Henry Van Wolf and are fabricated by Medallic Art Co. of New York City. The medals are housed in a beautiful custom designed red velvet four-cavity chest lined in velvet and satin.

The mintage of the medals is limited to an edition of 1500 sets in Hallmarked .999 Fine Silver, 1500 sets in Nickel-Silver, and 25,000 sets in Bronze. All medals are numbered.

All collectors and students of history, independent of their religious beliefs, will find this unusual set of four medals an important addition to their numismatic cabinets.

Fine Silver Set	\$125.00
Nickel-Silver Set	\$ 39.95
Bronze Set	\$ 34.95

Price

Please add \$1.75 per set for postage and insurance.

INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC AGENCY 127 EAST 59TH STREET NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022



JESUS CARRYING THE CROSS

MT. RUSHMORE AND THE WHITE HOUSE





DOUBLE COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION HONORING TWO POPULAR HISTORIC LANDMARKS

In tribute to the Office of the President in the national history of the United States the International Numismatic Agency has published a Double Commemorative Medallion honoring two important national edifices, the White House and Mt. Rushmore National Monument.

Mt. Rushmore, a mountain sculpture carved directly out of the stone of the Black Hills in South Dakota, is perhaps the most awe inspiring monument in the world. The famous gigantic granite images of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, viewed yearly by tens of thousands of Americans and foreign visitors, have become symbols of America's greatness and growth as a democratic government. The monument, designed and sculptured by the visionary Gutzon Borglum, celebrated its 49th Anniversary in 1967 and was honored in 1952, its 25th Anniversary by a 3c Commemorative stamp, now out of print. Bills currently before the Senate and House of Representatives propose that the Monument be incorporated in the design of the U.S. one dollar notes.

The White House, the first public building to be erected in Federal City as Washington himself called the site chosen to replace Philadelphia as the nation's capital, celebrated its 175th Anniversary in 1967. The cornerstone of the "President's Palace" was laid October 13, 1792, when George Washington had been President for three years and its first actual inhabitants were John and Abigail Adams.

A FIRST EDITION COLLECTORS MEDALLION STRUCK IN .999 FINE SILVER, HALLMARKED AND SERIALLY NUMBERED 1 TO 1000 HAS BEEN STRUCK IN HIGH-RELIEF FULI PROOF FINISH AT MEDALLIC ART COMPANY OF NEW YORK CITY FROM MODELS DESIGNED AND SCULPTURED BY SPERO ANARGYROS, FELLOW OF THE NATIONAL SCULPTURE SOCIETY AND CREATOR OF THE ALASKA CENTENNIAL AND HAWAII STATEHOOD MEDALS. IN ORDER TO ASSURE BOTH HIGH RELIEF AND PROOF FINISH EACH MEDAL HAS BEEN STRUCK A MINIMUM OF FOUR BLOWS FROM TWO DIFFERENT SETS OF HUBS AND DIES. SIZE 41.3 MM, PRESENTED IN DELUXE LEATHERETTE DISPLAY CASE. PRICE...\$30.00 EACH.

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In addition, an extra large and thick 2 ½" Desk Medallion (pictured above) with easel stand and exhibiting a very deep relief has been struck in traditional finish in Bronze, Nickel Silver, and Pure Silver (,999 Fine).

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